

(b) applying optical radiation of a selected wavelength and of a selected fluence through said applicator to said skin region, said applying step lasting for a predetermined time interval; and

(c) utilizing said applicator at least during step (b) to cool the skin surface in said skin region to a selected depth;

said selected fluence and said predetermined time interval being selected such that there is at most minimal heating of skin in said skin region to said selected depth, while causing sufficient heating of at least one of hairs and follicles below said selected depth to at least damage said hairs and follicles without causing significant damage to tissue surrounding said follicles.

Please cancel claim 2.

Claim 3, line 1 Change "2" to --1--.

Claim 4, line 1 Change "2" to --1--.

Please cancel claim 7.

Claim 8, line 1 Change "7" to --1--.

Claim 9, line 1 Change "7" to --1--.

Please rewrite claim 10, 11, 13, 15 and 20 as follows:

11. (Amended) A method for the simultaneous removal of a plurality of hairs from a skin region, each hair being in a follicle extending into the skin from a skin surface, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) placing an applicator in contact with the skin surface in said skin region; and
(b) applying optical radiation of a selected wavelength and of a selected fluence through said applicator to said skin region, said applying step lasting for a predetermined time interval;

[A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein step (b) included the step performed by the] said applicator [of] converging the optical radiation applied to said skin region.

^{12.}
11. (Amended) A method for the simultaneous removal of a plurality of hairs from a skin region, each hair being in a follicle extending into the skin from a skin surface, the method comprising the steps of:

B2 (a) placing an applicator in contact with the skin surface in said skin region; and
(b) applying optical radiation of a selected wavelength and of a selected fluence through said applicator to said skin region, said applying step lasting for a predetermined time interval;

[A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein during steps (a) and (b)] pressure being [is] applied to the applicator during steps (a) and (b) so as to cause the applicator to deform the skin region thereunder.

^{15.}
13. (Amended) A method for the simultaneous removal of a plurality of hairs from a skin region, each hair being in a follicle extending into the skin from a skin surface, the method comprising the steps of:

[A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein step (a) includes the step of forming]

B3 (a) utilizing an applicator to form a fold of the skin in said skin region, said applicator being in contact with the skin surface in said skin region on two substantially opposite sides of said fold; and [wherein, during step (b)]

(b) applying optical radiation of a selected wavelength and of a selected fluence through said applicator to said skin region, said applying step lasting for a predetermined time interval, the optical radiation being [is] applied to said two substantially opposite sides of the [said] fold.

^{17.}
15. (Amended) A method for the simultaneous removal of a plurality of hairs from a skin region, each hair being in a follicle extending into the skin from a skin surface, the method comprising the steps of:

B4 (a) placing an applicator in contact with the skin surface in said skin region, said step including the step of [(e)] providing a substantial refractive index match between the applicator and the skin surface in said skin region; and

B4 (b) applying optical radiation of a selected wavelength and of a selected fluence through said applicator to said skin region, said applying step lasting for a predetermined time interval.

19.
20. A method for the simultaneous removal of a plurality of hairs from a skin region, each hair being in a follicle extending into the skin from a skin surface, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) applying optical radiation of a selected wavelength and of a selected fluence to said skin region, said applying step lasting for a predetermined time interval; and

B5 (b) cooling the skin surface in said skin region to a selected depth prior to step (a) and during [at least one of] step (a) [and prior step (a)], said selected fluence and said predetermined time interval being selected such that there is at most minimal heating of skin in said skin region to said selected depth, while causing sufficient heating of at least one of hairs and follicles below said selected depth to at least damage said hairs and follicles without causing significant damage to tissue surrounding said follicles;

whereby at least one of the hairs and follicles is [may be] heated and damaged without causing significant damage to the skin surface in said skin region up to said selected depth.

Please cancel claims 21 and 22.

Please rewrite claim 23 and 28 as follows:

21.

23. (Amended) An applicator suitable for use in practicing the method of claim 1 comprising:

ans c1
c ~~An inlet through which optical radiation is applied to the applicator,~~
~~disposed on the housing~~
a surface _{c1} [shaped to] having a convex shape and adapted to be in pressure contact with the skin surface in said skin region;

B6 ans c2
an optical path from said inlet to ~~said surface which path is substantially transparent~~
_{c2} to optical radiation at said selected wavelength;

B6 an element in said optical path for converging the optical radiation as it leaves the applicator through said surface; and
means for cooling said surface to a temperature below that of the skin region.

[Please cancel claim 27]

25.
28. (Amended) An applicator [as claimed in claim 23 wherein] suitable for use in practicing the method of claim 1 comprising:

enc c1 ~~an inlet through which optical radiation is applied to the applicator;~~

c ~~disposed on the housing~~
a surface shaped to contact the skin surface in said skin region, said surface having

[has] a slot formed therein;

B7 enc c2 ~~an optical path from said inlet to said surface which path is substantially transparent~~
to optical radiation at said selected wavelength, said optical path leading [leads] to at least two opposite sides of said slot, and including means for positioning [drawing] at least a portion of said skin region into said slot;

an element in said optical path for converging the optical radiation as it leaves the applicator through said surface; and

means for cooling said surface to a temperature below that of the skin region.

Claim 29, line 1 Change "drawing" to --positioning--.

Please rewrite claims 30 and 31 as follows:

21.
30. (Amended) Apparatus for the simultaneous removal of a plurality of hairs from a skin ~~region~~ containing said plurality of hairs, each hair being in a follicle extending into the skin from a skin surface, the apparatus comprising:

B8 c a portion of containing a plurality of hairs
an applicator which is adapted to be in pressure contact with the skin surface in said skin region;

a source of optical radiation of a [selected] wavelength between 680 and 1,200 nm,
a [selected] fluence between 10 and 200 J/cm² and a pulse [selected] duration between
50 μs and 200 ms; and

means for applying the optical radiation from said source to said applicator, the
optical radiation being passed through the applicator to said skin region.

²⁸ 31. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim ²⁷ 30 wherein said applicator has a surface
in contact with the skin surface, and including a mechanism which cools [means for
cooling] said surface of the applicator below that of the skin region by an amount which is
sufficient in conjunction with selected radiation to prevent substantial heating of the skin
region in which said applicator is in pressure contract for a selected depth and not to
substantially interfere with heating of the skin in said region beyond said selected depth.

[Claim 32, line 1 Change "is" to --includes--.

Please add the following new claims 35 - 37.

³¹ 35. Apparatus as claimed in claim ³¹ 30 wherein said applicator has a surface in contact
with said skin surface, said surface of the applicator having a slot formed therein, wherein
the means for applying the optical radiation includes optical paths in said applicator leading
to at least two opposite sides of said slot, and wherein said applicator includes means for
positioning at least a portion of said skin region in said slot between said at least two
opposites sides.

¹⁴ 36. A method as claimed in claim ¹² 35 wherein the pressure applied to said applicator is
greater than blood pressure of a patient from whom hairs are being removed, whereby at
least some blood is removed from said skin region.

²⁰ 37. A method as claimed in claim ¹⁹ 36 wherein said selected depth is substantially the
entire epidermal layer depth in said region, but does not extend significantly into the dermal
layer.